

## **REMARKS**

The limitations recited in the presently cancelled Claim 11 are now incorporated in Claim 1. Crosslinking, the feature characterizing claimed graft bases B.1 and B.2 is supported in the specification (page 15, lines 15 et seq.) and in the exemplified grafts; the crosslinked graft base of B.1 finds support in page 27, line 23 the corresponding base of B.2 is supported in page, 28, line 1.

The claimed invention is directed to a thermoplastic molding composition comprising:

- (A) one or more resins selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester carbonate, polyamide, polyalkylene terephthalate and polyoxymethylene; and
- (B) a co-precipitated **mixture** of,
  - (i) a graft polymer B.1 that is prepared by means of a redox initiation system consisting of, an oxidizing agent and a reducing agent and
  - (ii) a graft copolymer B.2 that is prepared by means of an initiation system consisting of persulfate compounds.

The oxidizing agent entailed in the preparation of B.1 is at least one member selected from the group consisting of di-tert.-butyl peroxide, cumene hydroperoxide, dicyclohexyl percarbonate, tert.-butyl hydroperoxide, p-menthane hydroperoxide and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

The reducing agent entailed in the preparation of B.1 is at least one member selected from the group consisting of salts of sulfinic acid, salts of sulfurous acid, ascorbic acid, and salts of ascorbic acid, sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate, mono-hydroxyacetone, di-hydroxyacetone, sugars, iron(II) salts, tin(II) salts and titanium(III) salts.

As presently claimed, the graft bases of graft polymers B.1 and B.2 are crosslinked.

The inventive composition features improved surface appearance.

In the prosecution above, the claims face a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over United States Patent 5,276,092 (herein Kempner) in view of WO 00/06648 (herein Van der Helder).

Kempner disclosed (column 2, lines 37 et seq.) an agglomerated, encapsulated blend of

- (a) a core/shell impact modifier, and
- (b) a core/shell processing aid.

The initiators used in polymerizing these core /shell components are said by Kempner (col. 7, line 10 et seq.) to include

“persulfates, peresters, hydroperoxides, peracids, azo compounds and the like, and some or all of the initiators may be combined with activators to form “redox” pairs. Such activators include sodium formaldehyde, sulfoxylate, sodium metabisulfite, sodium hydrosulfite, and the like”.

No criticality relative to the compositional makeup of the initiator system is disclosed or suggested. Nothing in the reference points to any advantage attributable to the use of any initiator over the others nor to any advantages attributable to any combination of initiators.

Compare to the present invention where combination of initiators is key.

Van Der Helder has been cited for disclosing specific flame retardants such as are recited in Claims 6 and 7.

Most importantly, Kempner's core/shell processing aid comprise particles of a core polymer formed mostly from alkyl esters of (meth)acrylic acid and containing **no** units derived from a crosslinking monomer (column 3, lines 1-2). This characteristic of Kempner's agglomerated blend stands in stark contrast to the presently claimed co-precipitated mixture where the graft polymer components require crosslinking of the rubber core.

Consideration of the above remarks is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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